

Message Text

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TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
INFO USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

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USSALTTWO/CTB

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT: FEBRUARY 22 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL
INTEREST

LONDON FOR AMB/EX

1. TAKASHI OKA OF CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, REPORTING
FROM LONDON, SAID PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN TOLD HOUSE OF
COMMONS THAT USSR'S SS-20 MISSILE "IS FAR MORE DANGEROUS
WEAPON THAN NEUTRON BOMB." OKA SAID PRIME MINISTER DID NOT
COMMENT ON CONTROVERSIAL QUESTION OF WHETHER NEUTRON BOMB
SHOULD BE DEPLOYED IN EUROPE. "BUT HE WAS CLEARLY IMPA-
TIENT WITH LABOR LEFT-WINGER'S QUESTION DEPLORING NEUTRON
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BOMB WHILE SAYING NOTHING ABOUT SOVIET DEPLOYMENT OF NEW
NUCLEAR MISSILES AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT IN SIZE AND
QUALITY OF SOVIET ARMED FORCES IN GENERAL." CALLAGHAN
SAID THERE WOULD BE "FORMIDABLE PROSPECT FACING WORLD"
UNLESS ALL NEW WEAPONS NOW BEING PREPARED OR DEPLOYED --
AND NOT JUST NEUTRON BOMB -- WERE BROUGHT UNDER SOME FORM
OF ARMS CONTROL.

2. WASHINGTON POST REPORTED THAT HOUSE LEADERS EXPECT CLOSE VOTE FEB. 22 WHEN ISSUE OF KEEPING B-ONE BOMBER PROJECT ALIVE IS TAKEN UP ON HOUSE FLOOR. MEMBERS WILL VOTE ON

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS BILL CONTAINING 462 MILLION DOLLARS TO BUILD TWO MORE B-ONE PROTOTYPE PLANES. SENATE VOTED FEB. 1, 53 TO 37, TO UPHOLD ITS POSITION IN FAVOR OF CUTTING B-ONE FUNDING OUT OF SUPPLEMENTAL BILL. IF HOUSE DOES NOT AGREE, BILL WILL GO TO HOUSE-SENATE CONFERENCE. NEW YORK TIMES POINTED OUT THAT COUNTING TESTING, THE TWO ADDITIONAL BOMBERS WOULD COST 750 MILLION DOLLARS. TIMES SAID "MANNED BOMBERS THAT PENETRATE AIR DEFENSES MAY YET RETURN TO AMERICAN ARSENAL.... BUT B-ONE HAS NO FUTURE, ONLY STUBBORN POLITICAL PRESENT. OTHER ECONOMIES WILL BE DIFFICULT TO JUSTIFY IF HOUSE DOES NOT RESTRAIN ITSELF TODAY."

3. NEW YORK TIMES, IN DISPATCH FROM GENEVA, SAID FOURTH ROUND OF INDIAN OCEAN TALKS "ENDED ON COOLER NOTE THAN DID EARLIER SESSIONS." NOTING THAT JOINT PRESS STATEMENT SAID DATE FOR RESUMPTION OF TALKS "WOULD BE FIXED BY MUTUAL AGREEMENT," TIMES NOTED THIS "CONTRASTED WITH ASSURANCE AFTER THIRD ROUND LAST DECEMBER THAT TWO SIDES WOULD MEET AGAIN AT AN 'EARLY DATE.'" TIMES SAID "DISTINCTLY COOLER TONE OF TODAY'S STATEMENT IS UNDERSTOOD TO REFLECT WASHINGTON'S DISPLEASURE WITH ACTIVE SOVIET ROLE IN CONFLICT BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA."

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TON'S DISPLEASURE WITH ACTIVE SOVIET ROLE IN CONFLICT BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA."

4. NEW YORK TIMES PUBLISHED ASSOCIATED PRESS DISPATCH REPORTING THAT FOUR-SHIP NAVY FORCE HEADED BY GUIDED MISSILE CRUISER FOX HAD ENTERED INDIAN OCEAN. DEFENSE DEPARTMENT SAID VOYAGE OF FOX, TWO FRIGATES AND AN OILER WAS "ROUTINE DEPLOYMENT IN KEEPING WITH OUR POLICY OF CONDUCTING NAVAL OPERATIONS IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS."

5. SYNDICATED COLUMNIST JACK ANDERSON, IN FEB. 22 WASHINGTON POST, NOTED THAT PRESIDENT SADAT EXPLAINED DURING HIS VISIT THAT USSR HAD CUT OFF ARMS SALES TO EGYPT AFTER 1973 WAR. BECAUSE OF SOVIET CUTOFF, SADAT KEPT PRESSING FOR GREATER MILITARY AID FROM U.S., ANDERSON SAID. "SADAT'S CLAIM IS CONTRADICTED, HOWEVER, BY INTELLIGENCE REPORTS," ANDERSON SAID, "WHICH SHOW HE RECEIVED ENOUGH SOVIET MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO WAGE ANOTHER WAR. SOURCES WITH ACCESS TO SECRET REPORTS TELL US THAT SOVIETS REPLACED MOST OF ARMS LOST BY SADAT'S FORCES DURING ILL-FATED WAR. THEY ALSO CONTINUED TO PROVIDE SOPHISTICATED NEW WEAPONS. AS LATE AS 1975, EGYPT RECEIVED ABOUT 1.5 BILLION DOLLARS

WORTH OF SOVIET ARMS AID, OUR SOURCES REPORT."

6. NEW YORK TIMES SAID CONGRESSIONAL RELEASE OF CIA AND PENTAGON VIEWS ON SOVIET CIVIL DEFENSE COMES AS ADMINISTRATION IS COMPLETING AN INTERAGENCY STUDY OF PROBLEM. RICHARD BURT, WRITING IN FEB. 18 TIMES, SAID STUDY FOCUSES NOT

ONLY ON MILITARY IMPACT OF PROGRAM, BUT ALSO ON QUESTION OF WHETHER U.S. SHOULD REVIVE ITS OWN CIVIL DEFENSE EFFORT. CIA ASSESSMENT THAT SOVIET CIVIL DEFENSE PREPARATIONS ARE UNLIKELY TO BLUNT ABILITY OF U.S. TO RETALIATE IN EVENT OF NUCLEAR WAR, ACCORDING TO BURT, APPEARS TO DIFFER SOMEWHAT FROM VIEWS OF MILITARY PEOPLE IN PENTAGON. JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE MADE PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY CIA DIRECTOR TURNER, IN UNCLASSIFIED

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WHICH HE SAID AN AGENCY REVIEW HAD FOUND STEADILY INCREASING SOVIET EFFORT TO PROTECT CITIES AND INDUSTRY AGAINST NUCLEAR ATTACK. TURNER SAID CIVIL DEFENSE HAD BECOME AN INTEGRAL PART OF SOVIET MILITARY STRATEGY, BUT "WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT EXISTING PREPARATIONS COULD PREVENT GENERAL BREAKDOWN IN SOVIET ECONOMY IN EVENT OF AN AMERICAN RETALIATORY STRIKE." TURNER REJECTED VIEW THAT SOVIET STEPS TO BUILD FALLOUT SHELTERS AND TO DISPERSE NEW FACTORIES INDICATED THAT MOSCOW MIGHT BE WILLING TO UNDERTAKE SURPRISE ATTACK. "WE DO NOT INTERPRET THIS AS MEANING THAT SOVIETS ARE PLANNING TO INITIATE NUCLEAR WARFARE," TURNER SAID IN TESTIMONY LAST JUNE. BURT SAID TURNER'S MEASURED ASSESSMENT CONTRASTS WITH SUBSEQUENT TESTIMONY OF LIEUT. GEN. SAMUEL V. WILSON, DIRECTOR OF PENTAGON'S DIA. BURT POINTED OUT THAT WILSON, ALTHOUGH AGREEING THAT MOSCOW COULD NOT PROTECT ITS ECONOMY IN NUCLEAR WAR, SAID SOVIET UNION BEGAN SEVERAL PROGRAMS IN 1970 TO INSURE RAPID RECOVERY FROM SUCH CONFLICT. IN PARTICULAR, WILSON SAID, SHELTERS HAD BEEN BUILT FOR POLITICAL AND MILITARY LEADERS AND PROCEDURES TO EVACUATE LARGE CITIES BEFORE NUCLEAR ATTACK APPEAR WORKABLE. IN ADDITION, WILSON SAID, MOSCOW PLANS TO STORE ENOUGH GRAIN BY 1981 TO FEED ENTIRE POPULATION FOR ONE YEAR. BURT SAID SOME PRIVATE ANALYSTS SAY THAT SOVIET UNION COULD PROTECT OVER 75 PERCENT OF ITS POPULATION AGAINST NUCLEAR ATTACK. THIS ESTIMATE FINDS LITTLE SUPPORT IN GOVERNMENT, BURT NOTED, BUT PENTAGON OFFICIALS ARE EXPRESSING GROWING CONCERN OVER LONG-TERM IMPACT OF SOVIET EFFORTS. VANCE

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